

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3918

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, BC

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S VISIT TO TANZANIA

REF: GABORONE 1288 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA PAID WELL-PUBLICIZED 6-DAY STATE VISIT TO TANZANIA WHICH WAS SIGNIFICANT BY FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE AT ALL IN VIEW OF DIFFERING POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES OF TWO COUNTRIES. ONE OF KEY ITEMS DISCUSSED WAS POLICY TOWARDS LEADERS OF SOUTH AFRICAN HOMELANDS WHICH MAY RESULT IN GREATER TANZANIAN APPRECIATION OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF HOMELAND LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT AND MRS. SERETSE KHAMA OF BOTSWANA MADE STATE VISIT TO TANZANIA AUGUST 18-SEPTEMBER 2. DURING STAY KHAMA VISITED ZANZIBAR, AN UJAMAA VILLAGE, NORTHERN GAME PARKS, AND HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER KAWAWA.

3. LOCAL PRESS ACCORDED HEAVY COVERAGE TO VISIT. ON DAY OF KHAMA'S ARRIVAL, GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL EMPHASIZED BOTSWANA'S NORTHWARD LOOK AND HER POLICY OF "DEFIANT SURVIVAL". TANU-OWNED UHURU EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTED BOTSWANA'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND EFFORTS TO LOOSEN TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

4. IN HIS KEY SPEECH OF VISIT, KHAMA NOTED THAT BOTSWANA'S FREEDOM OF ACTION IS SEVERELY LIMITED DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, ADDING THAT TANZANIA WAS ONE OF FIRST COUNTRIES IN WORLD TO UNDERSTAND THIS PECULIAR SITUATION. KHAMA ADDED: "TANZANIA IS FOR US VERY IMPORTANT SOURCE OF MORAL SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION IN OUR EFFORTS TO FIGHT RACIAL INJUSTICE AS WELL AS IN OUR DETERMINATION TO KEEP ALIVE IN OUR PART OF WORLD IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF BROTHERHOOD OF MAN."

5. NYERERE NOTED THAT BOTSWANA DOES NOT GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS NOR IS IT INVOLVED IN ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ADDING SYMPATHETICALLY THAT NOR IS AFRICA "SO STUPID AS TO ASK BOTSWANA TO COMMIT SUICIDE BY PROVIDING SUCH FACILITIES". NYERERE PRAISED KHAMA FOR REJECTING DIALOGUE AND SPEAKING OUT AGAINST UK ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA. NYERERE PROMISED TO GIVE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA.

6. JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH IS MILD BY TANZANIAN STANDARDS, CALLED FOR COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF TRADE, EDUCATION, MANPOWER TRAINING, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND POLITICAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT "ROOT CAUSE OF DANGEROUS AND EXPLOSIVE SITUATION PREVAILING IN AFRICA IS DENIAL TO PEOPLE OF THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND HUMAN DIGNITY. THEY THEREFORE REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEF IN LEGITIMACY OF STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN COUNTRIES STILL UNDER COLONIAL AND RACIAL DOMINATION AND EXPRESSED THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OPPRESSED PEOPLE ARE WAGING IN ALL UNLIBERATED AREAS OF AFRICA INCLUDING ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH AFRICA, GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE, NAMIBIA, AND ZIMBABWE."

7. FON. MIN. DIR. OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS EXPLAINED TO EMB. OFF. AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT THAT IT WAS "REAL EYE-OPENER FOR US".
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OFFICIAL SAID SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF KHAMA FOR GOING TO "COMMUNIST" TANZANIA. KHAMA, NEVERTHELESS, DECIDED THAT AS LEADER OF INDEPENDENT NATION HE MUST ACT LIKE INDEPENDENT LEADER. BOTH COUNTRIES AGREED ON IMPORTANCE FOR BOTSWANA OF ESTABLISHING TRANSPORTATION LINKS TO NORTH.

8. ACCORDING TO FON. MIN. OFFICIAL, KHAMA WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING ROLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN HOMELAND LEADERS.

KHAMA EXPLAINED THAT BOTSWANA IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM HOMELAND EXCEPT IT FLIES ITS OWN FLAG. HE REPORTEDLY URGED TANZANIA TO TAKE NEW LOOK AT HOMELANDS WHICH, MUCH TO SOUTH AFRICA'S DISCOMFORT, MIGHT ONE DAY BE BASIS FOR REAL AND UNFORESEEN CHANGE. KHAMA PRAISED, IN PARTICULAR, CHIEF BUTELEZI OF KWAZULU, ADDING THAT BUTELEZI WOULD VISIT BOTSWANA IF PERMISSION IS OBTAINED FROM SAG. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, FON. MIN. OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT SOME TIME AGO BUTELEZI WANTED TO VISIT TANZANIA. NYERERE RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE FOR FEAR THAT SUCH VISIT WOULD "JEOPARDIZE BUTELEZI'S POSITION IN SA". OFFICIAL SAID THAT YEAR OR SO AGO BUTELEZI ACTUALLY DID HAVE DISCREET MEETING WITH TANZANIAN HC IN LONDON. HE NOTED GOT POLICY ON VISIT TO TANZANIA BY BUTELEZI REMAINS SAME, I.E., HE IS WELCOME TO COME BUT ONLY IF IT DOES NOT JEOPARDIZE HIS POSITION. CURIOUSLY, TANZANIANS SEEM TO BE INSISTING ON MAKING THIS DETERMINATION.

9. NYERERE ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT BOTSWANA NEXT YEAR ON DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED. CLIPPINGS BEING POUCHED GABORONE. JOINT COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED WASHINGTON AND GABORONE.

10. COMMENT: FACT THAT NYERERE INVITED KHAMA AND MORE CONCILIATORY TANZANIAN STANCE TOWARDS MALAWI RECENTLY INDICATES, WE BELIEVE, THERE IS GROWING APPRECIATION BY TANZANIA FOR SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN NATIONS ON PERIPHERY OF WHITE-RULED NATIONS. KHAMA VISIT MAY ALSO PORTEND GREATER APPRECIATION BY TANZANIA OF SOUTH AFRICAN HOMELAND LEADERS, PARTICULARLY BUTELEZI.
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